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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01
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R 151459Z DEC 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5948
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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B. (U) MADE ORAL INQUIRIES OF FONOFF IN JAN 82 CONCERNING THE STATUS OF SALVADOR PRIVITERA (SUBJECT'S TRAVELING COMPANION). FONOFF RESPONDED WITH NOTE DATED 28 JAN 82 (REF F) INDICATING PRIVITERA HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA ON 2 MAR 79 BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE ISSUED UNDER NATIONAL EXECUTIVE POWERS (PEN). FONOFF HAD NO INFORMATION TO PROVIDE CONCERNING PRIVITERA'S DISAPPEARANCE IN 1980.

C. (U) IN JAN 82, EMBASSY MADE ORAL REQUEST OF ARGENTINA'S IMMIGRATION OFFICE (MIGRACIONES) TO SEARCH RECORDS OF ALL ALIENS ENTERING ARGENTINA VIA EZEIZA AIRPORT FOR MONTH OF JUN 80. MIGRACIONES CONDUCTED SEARCH WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS (REF C).

D. [REDACTED] VISITED ITALIAN EMBASSY IN DEC 82 TO DETERMINE IF THAT EMBASSY'S FILES CONTAINED DATA ON PRIVITERA'S RELATIVES IN ARGENTINA. (SEE PARA 5). PRIVITERA'S FILE WAS REVIEWED BUT IT APPEARS HE HAD NO RELATIVES IN ARGENTINA.

E. [REDACTED] ON 9 DEC 82, THE AMBASSADOR VISITED GENERAL LLAMIL RESTON, THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, AND TOOK THE OCCASION TO RAISE THE CASE. RESTON WAS UNAWARE OF IT BUT MADE A NOTE AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES.

3. (U) THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION ON SUBJECT'S CASE. THE MOST OBVIOUS SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN ARGENTINA AT THIS POINT IS MIGRA-

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CIONES AS THAT OFFICE MAINTAINS RECORDS OF PERSONS WHO

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R 151459Z DEC 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5949
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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ENTER AND DEPART ARGENTINA. THE RECORDS, HOWEVER, ARE FILED CHRONOLOGICALLY BY PORT OF ENTRY. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT ARGENTINA HAS LAND FRONTIERS WITH CHILE, BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY, BRAZIL, AND URUGUAY, SEVERAL SEAPORTS, AND SEVERAL AIRPORTS WITH INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICE. IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT THE WILLINGNESS OF MIGRACIONES TO COOPERATE IN A SEARCH OF ITS RECORDS WILL INCREASE TO THE EXTENT THAT OUR REQUEST IS NARROWED WITH RESPECT TO TIME OF ENTRY OR DEPARTURE, MODE OF TRAVEL, AND PORT OF ENTRY (OR AT LEAST THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OR DESTINATION).

4. [REDACTED] IN OUR EFFORTS TO NARROW THE TIME PERIOD AND TH PORTS OF ENTRY (AND DEPARTURE), WE ANALYZED THE SUBJECT'S FILE AND NOTE THE FOLLOWING DISCREPANCIES:

A. [REDACTED] REF A REPORTED THAT SUBJECT'S BROTHER, ROBERT MOTTA, HAD SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM SUBJECT FROM BUENOS AIRES IN MAY 80 AND THAT SHE TELEPHONED FROM BUENOS AIRES IN LATE JUN 80. THE LOG OF COMMUNICATIONS (ATTACHED TO 15 MAR 82 LETTER FROM UNITED STATES

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CATHOLIC CONFERENCE) INDICATES QUOTE ONLY CALL FROM ARGENTINA UNQUOTE WAS RECEIVED BY MOTHER IN AUG 80.

B. [REDACTED] IF THE LOG OF COMMUNICATIONS IS ACCURATE THAT FAMILY HAD RECEIVED A LETTER ON 4 JUN 80 FROM BOGOTA SAYING SUBJECT HAD ALREADY VISITED BUENOS AIRES, SUBJECT WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE MADE AT LEAST TWO TRIPS TO ARGENTINA.

C. [REDACTED] THE LOG OF COMMUNICATIONS INDICATES THAT THE

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ONLY TELEPHONE CALL FROM ARGENTINA WAS IN AUG 80 AND FAMILY HAS NOT HEARD FROM SUBJECT SINCE. IN THE DENUNCIA (PRESENTED TO II CONGRESO DE FAMILIARES DE DESAPARECIDOS IN CARACAS), HOWEVER, ROBERT MOTTA INDICATED IN A SIGNED STATEMENT THAT QUOTE IN NOVEMBER OF THAT SAME YEAR (1980), HER RELATIVES UNEXPECTEDLY CEASED TO RECEIVE ANY NEWS FROM HER. UNQUOTE.

5. [REDACTED] BECAUSE SUCH DISCREPANCIES MADE IT HARD TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL LEADS WITHOUT MORE INFORMATION, CONOFF VISITED THE ITALIAN EMBASSY TO SEE IF SALVATORE PRIVITERA HAD ANY RELATIVES REMAINING IN ARGENTINA WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT HE (AND THEREFORE PERHAPS THE SUBJECT) HAD VISITED ARGENTINA IN 1980. (EMBASSY HAD ALREADY NOTED THAT PRIVITERA'S FATHER HAD SIGNED ONE OF THE STATEMENTS IN THE DENUNCIA IN OCT 81 IN GRANMICHELE, CATANIA, ITALY). THE ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THEY HAD A FILE ON PRIVITERA BUT IT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY MEN-

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5950
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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TION OF ANY RELATIVES NOW LIVING IN ARGENTINA. THE OFFICER CONFIRMED PRIVITERA HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA IN 1979 BUT SAID THERE WERE NO DATA TO INDICATE PRIVITERA HAD RETURNED TO ARGENTINA IN 1980.

5. [REDACTED] THE EMBASSY HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT IF THE SUBJECT AND PRIVITERA DID ENTER ARGENTINA, THEY USED TRAVEL DOCU-

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MENTS IN THEIR TRUE NAMES. AS PRIVITERA HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA AFTER SPENDING MORE THAN FOUR YEARS IN PRISON, HE WOULD HAVE KNOWN HE COULD NOT RE-ENTER ARGENTINA LEGALLY WITHOUT RUNNING RISK OF IMPRISONMENT OR WORSE. IF HE RETURNED TO ARGENTINA IN 1980, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN HE ENTERED WITHOUT INSPECTION OR BY USING FALSE DOCUMENTATION.

7. [REDACTED] IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT PRIVITERA AND SUBJECT WERE TRAVELING TOGETHER. IN REF E, A STAFFER AT THE INTERNATIONAL DAILY NEWS IN ROME INDICATED SUBJECT WAS QUOTE CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH SALVATORE AND CERTAINLY COMMITTED TO WHATEVER SALVATORE WAS TRYING TO DO EVEN WHEN SHE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE DANGER AND OTHER POSSIBLE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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IMPLICATIONS. UNQUOTE. IN A LETTER TO THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DATED 18 MAR 82, THE EDITOR OF COHA CHARACTERIZED PRIVITERA AS A QUOTE FORMER MONTONERO GUERRILLA UNQUOTE. SUBJECT WOULD HAVE HAD AMPLE REASONS TO CONCLUDE THAT IF SHE TRAVELED USING HER TRUE IDENTITY DOCUMENT [REDACTED] SHE WOULD ENDANGER PRIVITERA. EMBASSY THEREFORE CONSIDERS IT LIKELY THAT IF SHE ENTERED ARGENTINA WITH PRIVITERA IN 1980, SHE ALSO USED FALSE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. 136

8. [REDACTED] MANY POSTS HAVE MADE CHECKS WITH IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES BUT NONE HAS COME UP WITH ANY POSITIVE DATA INDICATING SUBJECT HAD ENTERED OR DEPARTED USING HER TRUE NAME. BOGOTA'S CHECK (REF D) WAS REPORTED AS THOROUGH AND COVERED TWO YEARS. THESE NEGATIVE REPORTS ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO CONCLUSION THAT SUBJECT WAS NOT USING A TRAVEL DOCUMENT IN HER TRUE NAME.

9. [REDACTED] NOTWITHSTANDING OUR DOUBTS ABOUT THE TRAVEL DOCUMENT USED BY SUBJECT IN ENTERING ARGENTINA, WE ARE STILL PREPARED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES OF MIGRACIONES. THE REPORT OF THE AUG 80 TELEPHONE CALL ON THE LOG OF COMMUNICATIONS IS THE MOST SPECIFIC OF THE REPORTS OF SUBJECT'S PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA. THE LOG HAS THIS ENTRY: QUOTE AUGUST 1980. ONLY PHONE CALL FROM ARGENTINA. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE THE PLANE THAT SAME NIGHT TO EITHER PARAGUAY OR URUGUAY. PHONE CALL WAS UN-
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INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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EXPECTEDLY SHORT, AND MRS. MOTTA (WHO RECEIVED THE CALL) REALIZED FROM THE NATURE OF THE CALL THAT TONI WAS IN A STATE OF FEAR OR IMMINENT DANGER. UNQUOTE. TO CHECK THIS REPORT OUT, HOWEVER, WOULD REQUIRE SEARCHES OF DEPARTURE FILES AT EZEIZA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AEROPARQUE (AIRPORT SERVICING SHORT FLIGHTS TO URUGUAY), ROSARIO AIRPORT, PLUS OTHER LAND AND SEA PORTS OF ENTRY WHICH COULD BE USED FOR TRAVEL TO URUGUAY OR PARAGUAY. AS NO SPECIFIC DATE IS MENTIONED IN THE LOG, THE ENTIRE MONTH OF AUG 80 WOULD HAVE TO BE CHECKED. EVEN THIS RELATIVELY SPECIFIC SEARCH WITH RESPECT TO TIME AND DESTINATION WOULD REQUIRE A CHECK OF THOUSANDS OF CARDS.

10. [REDACTED] BEFORE REQUESTING MIGRACIONES TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A CHECK, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER THE USEFULNESS AND PROPRIETY OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT ONCE AGAIN WITH ROBERT MOTTA AND/OR THE PARENTS OF SUBJECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE SUBJECT'S ITINERARY. IF CONTACT WAS MAINTAINED WITH THE SUBJECT UNTIL NOV 80 AND UNEXPECTEDLY BROKEN AS INDICATED IN BROTHER'S SIGNED STATEMENT IN THE DENUNCIA, FOR EXAMPLE, A SEARCH OF [REDACTED]

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MIGRACIONES FILES FOR DEPARTURES IN AUGUST FOR PARAGUAY

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AND URUGUAY WOULD BE POINTLESS. THE BROTHER MIGHT ALSO BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON WHY HE WAITED FROM AUG 80 TO APR 81 TO REPORT HIS SISTER'S DISAPPEARANCE, PARTICULARLY IF THE LAST NEWS FROM HER WAS THE OMINOUS TELEPHONE CALL FROM BUENOS AIRES. (THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE AUG 80 TELEPHONE CALL IN REF A). IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF BROTHER (OR PARENTS) COULD PRODUCE THE LETTERS FROM SUBJECT COVERING HER TRAVELS IN LATIN AMERICA. THEY MIGHT ASSIST IN DETERMINING MODE OF TRAVEL, MORE PRECISE TIME SEQUENCE, ETC. WE ARE UNAWARE WHERE BROTHER IS LIVING AT THIS MOMENT.

11. [REDACTED] DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO REQUEST ROME TO FOLLOW UP ON REPORT IN PARA 2 OF REF E THAT MEMBER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPROACHED EDITOR OF INTERNATIONAL DAILY NEWS AND SHOWED LETTER INDICATING SUBJECT WAS IN JAIL AND NEEDED HELP.

12. (U) DEPARTMENT IS ALSO REQUESTED TO REPEAT STATE 63189 AND STATE 62755 WHICH ARE NOT IN OUR FILES.
SHLAUDEMAN

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